

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

1. (canceled)
2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that the data sets used in the automatic adjustment of the demand quantities in step b) include restrictions with respect to at least one of the production sites and and/or the suppliers.
3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that the demand quantities in step a) ~~of claim 4~~ are determined by defining a first demand forecast for a first forecast time period, determining a second demand forecast for a second forecast time period by using stochastic processes derived from the first forecast, and determining the demand quantities according to defined predefined algorithms which evaluate at least one of the first and and/or the second demand forecasts.
4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that the automatic adjustment in step b) ~~of claim 4~~ includes a correction of the demand quantities so as to match the demand quantities to at least one of the manufacturing capacities and the and/or ~~(manufacturing)~~ supplier capacities.
5. Canceled
6. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that the generating of the updated demand numbers for the defined predefined time period ~~includes evaluating are distributed over the~~ daily assumptions, ~~when the demand numbers are automatically allocated to the production sites.~~
7. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that the automatic allocation of the portion of the updated demand quantities numbers to the production sites includes compiling daily schedules for the production sites.

8. (currently amended) Method according to claim 6, characterized in that the automatic allocation of the portion of the updated demand quantities numbers to the production sites includes breaking up the products specified in the daily assumptions into their modules.

9. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that the updated demand quantities numbers include information about an significant equipment features feature of the products ("heavy-items").

10. Canceled

11. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that, in step (d), the restrictions of the production sites include at least one of model on which the simulation is based, includes parameters characterizing a production site, such as capacity limitations, work schedule models, and/or and permanent staffing.

12. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that in the ~~model on which the simulation is based, a differentiation is made between dealers, in particular between dealers of the~~ include domestic market dealers and importers.

13. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that in the ~~model on which the simulation is based distribution,~~ distribution channels are subdivided into distribution sub-channels.

14. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 4, characterized in that the generating of the updated demand quantities is based on at least one of data generated in steps a) to e) of claim 1 include quantitative evaluations of process designs, assessments of strategies, ~~for example with respect to managing disruptions,~~ times for freezing orders, delivery times, delivery reliability, utilization of transportation means and and/or costs.

15. (currently amended) Method according to claim 22 ~~claims 4~~, characterized in that, in step (c), the evaluating is performed using data obtained from databases of real systems, in particular from databases of dealers and/or production sites, are ~~automatically evaluated during the process.~~

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) Simulation system according to claim 29, characterized in that the simulation system includes interfaces to databases of real systems, ~~such as the databases of dealers and/or production sites.~~

18. (currently amended) Computer program product with a computer-readable storage medium for storing a program which enables a computer, after the program is loaded into the memory of the computer, to execute the a process for simulating order processing processes for producing the a complex product, ~~in particular a motor vehicle, wherein the simulation includes the process steps according to claim 22 4.~~

19. (currently amended) Computer-readable storage medium for storing a program which enables a computer, after the program is loaded into ~~the~~ memory of the computer, to execute a process for simulating order processing processes for the a complex product, ~~in particular a motor vehicle, wherein the simulation includes the process steps according to claim 22 4.~~

Claims 20-21 (canceled)

22. (new) Method for simulating order processing processes used for producing a product available in a plurality of versions or a plurality of selectable features comprising the steps:

a) entering into a data processing device demand quantities for at least one class of the product for at least one predefined period of time;

b) automatically adjusting, through use of a computer program installed on a data processing device, the demand quantities with predefined datasets representative of at least one of manufacturing capacities and supplier capacities, and determining at least one of approved firm order allocations and approved modular allocations;

c) generating updated demand quantities for the predefined time period by evaluating at least one of the approved firm order allocations, the approved modular allocations and simulated buyer orders newly received by dealers;

d) adjusting the updated demand quantities with respect to restrictions of at least one of production sites and suppliers, and automatically allocating at least a portion of the updated demand quantities to the production sites;

e) simulating at least one of production and supply for the production based on the allocation in step d);

f) automatically determining distribution channels and simulating distribution of finished products from the production sites to delivery locations;

g) generating assumption data representative of a simulated matching of the updated demand quantities with at least one of customer orders and dealer specifications of the finished products; and

h) outputting the assumption data to the production sites.

23. (new) Method according to claim 22, where the product is a motor vehicle.

24. (new) Method according to claim 22, where the assumption data comprises freeze point data, where a freeze point is a latest possible date when a change to at least one of the customer orders and the dealer specifications is insertable in a production process.

25. (new) Method according to claim 22, wherein step (a) further comprises defining preliminary demand quantities for a first forecast time period;

wherein step (c) further comprises generating, by simulation, dealer orders for a second forecast time period and generating the updated demand quantities for the second demand time period by evaluating the preliminary demand quantities and the dealer orders; and

wherein step (d) further comprises adjusting the updated demand quantities for the second demand time period to capacities of at least one of the production sites and the suppliers.

26. (new) Method according to claim 25, wherein the first forecast time period is a year of sales, the second forecast time period is three months and the predefined time period is a delivery week.

27. (new) Method according to claim 14, wherein the assessments of strategies include managing disruptions.

28. (new) Method according to claim 15, wherein the databases of real systems include databases of at least one of the dealers and production sites.

29. (new) A simulation system for simulating order processing processes used for producing a product available in a plurality of versions or a plurality of selectable features, the system comprising:

a forecast module, a production module, a distribution module and an assumption module under control of a computer program implemented on a computer system,

wherein the forecast module is for:

receiving demand quantities for at least one class of the product for at least one predefined period of time;

automatically adjusting the demand quantities with predefined datasets representative of at least one of manufacturing capacities and supplier capacities, and determining at least one of approved firm order allocations and approved modular allocations;

generating updated demand quantities for the predefined time period by evaluating at least one of the approved firm order allocations, the approved modular allocations and simulated buyer orders newly received by dealers; and

adjusting the updated demand quantities with respect to restrictions of at least one of production sites and suppliers, and automatically allocating at least a portion of the updated demand quantities to the production sites;

wherein the production module is for simulating at least one of production and supply for the production based on the allocating performed in the forecast module;

wherein the distribution module is for automatically determining distribution channels and simulating distribution of finished products from the production sites to delivery locations; and

wherein the assumption module is for

generating assumption data representative of a simulated matching of the updated demand quantities with at least one of customer orders and dealer specifications of the finished products; and

outputting the assumption data to the production sites.

30. (new) Simulation system according to claim 17, wherein the databases of real systems includes databases of at least one of the dealers and production sites.

31. (new) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the process for simulating order processing processes is for producing a motor vehicle.

32. (new) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the process for simulating order processing processes is for producing a motor vehicle.